

Digging Deeper

Key Passage: 1 Peter 1:3-12

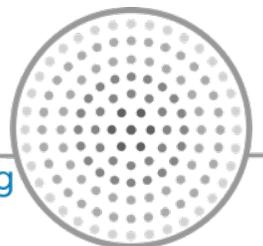
Main Idea: “Inexpressible and glorious joy” in the midst of suffering is not dependent on circumstances, but upon love and trust in Jesus Christ and the inheritance He has secured for us.

Background:

1 Peter 1:3-12 is an interesting passage in that it is Peter’s heartfelt expression of praise to God, against the backdrop of pain and suffering, with an eye on our rich inheritance as believers.

Discussion:

1. What was most challenging, insightful, or confusing to you from Sunday’s message?
2. Take some time and reread 1 Peter 1:3-12. Peter speaks of an “inheritance” that is “kept in heaven for you.” Specifically, what are some of the specific blessings that this inheritance includes? Given the fact that much of our inheritance is not yet fully realized in our lives, how can it nonetheless be a present comforting reality?
3. Can you think of a Christian who has exhibited “inexpressible and glorious joy” in the midst of great suffering? Specifically, what did you admire about them?
4. Mike stated that, “Inexpressible and glorious joy in the midst of suffering is possible when we’re convinced our suffering has a redemptive or refining purpose.” Can you think of an example from your life where this has been proven true?
5. In what way are we as Christians living in 2017 the envy of angels and of Old Testament prophets? Peter shared this thought as an encouragement. In what way can this serve as an encouragement to us when we suffer?



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Application:

- Are you known by family, friends and work associates as one who is characterized by an “inexpressible and glorious joy”? If not, would you like to be? How would this kind of joy in your life serve your family and friends? What steps do you need to take in order to cultivate this kind of spirit? Are you willing to take them?

